



Animal &  
Plant Health  
Agency

# Import of Rodentia and Lagomorpha to be used for Pet Food and Feeding to Animals other than Farmed Land Animals

## Import Information Note (IIN) ABP/27

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# 1. Important Information

Import Information Notes are technical documents containing import requirements and are for use by importers and veterinary staff.

Please be aware that import conditions may be updated due to changes in policy or legislation. Please ensure that you check the current version of the Import Information Note online.

Importers should note that the information given relates only to animal health and public health conditions of import. It does not give guidance on other conditions that may need to be met.

EU legislation as it stood on 31 December 2020 that the UK already complies with has been incorporated into our domestic law as “retained EU law” under the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018. References in our guidance and certification to such EU instruments should be taken to be references to this “retained EU law”. Our current standards will remain in force, without amendment, in the immediate months after our EU exit as part of UK domestic law (apart from corrections to make the EU legislation fully operable).

You can find further information on legislation, including Relevant EU Exit Statutory Instruments in the legislation section of this import information note.

Please note that any links to legislation provided in this document are for information purposes only and may not be the most recent version.

Further information regarding changes to the import controls from an EU country from 1 January 2021 can be found on GOV.UK at the below link:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/import-animal-by-products-and-high-risk-food-and-feed-not-of-animal-origin-from-the-eu-to-great-britain>

## 2. Scope

Import conditions for rodentia and lagomorpha (rodents and rabbits/hares) to be used for pet food (e.g. feeding to reptiles and birds of prey) and feeding to animals other than farmed land animals.

Under Annex XIV, Chapter IV, Section 2 of [Retained EU Regulation 142/2011](#) the competent authority may authorise the import of the following materials for purposes other than feeding to farmed land animals:

- Category 3 material comprising of animals and parts thereof of the zoological orders of Rodentia and Lagomorpha.

Imports of consignments of these animal by-products shall take place in accordance with veterinary and sanitary certification requirements in accordance with national rules.

References to imports into Great Britain in this Import Information Note also includes imports into the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man.

References to trading partners includes non-EU, EU and EFTA countries. Import requirements from non-EU and EU countries will be differentiated, where required, in this Import Information Note.

Information regarding transits can be found on gov.uk:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/transiting-animals-and-animal-products-through-great-britain>

### 3. Production standards

The Rodentia and Lagomorpha must be deep frozen and free from Salmonella and other pathogenic organisms or dried by a treatment sufficient to destroy pathogenic organisms, including Salmonella.

### 4. Country of origin

#### a) In the case of Rodentia

Applications will be assessed on a case by case basis.

#### b) In the case of lagomorpha

Imports are permitted from trading partners listed in a document published by the Secretary of State, with the consent of the Scottish and Welsh Ministers for:

- [Non-EU countries](#)
- [EU and EFTA countries](#)

Imports are permitted from countries listed in the documents for meat of wild leporidae, of certain wild land mammals and of farmed rabbits from which imports of fresh meat from leporidae (rabbits and hares) species are authorised.

### 5. Health certification/documentation

Each consignment must be accompanied by a commercial document stating the details as laid down in the authorisation issued by the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA).

## 6. Authorisation

Prior to importation, an authorisation must be obtained from APHA. The authorisation sets out the conditions for importing these animal by-products into Great Britain. This document **MUST** be obtained by the importer before imports can take place. To apply for an authorisation please fill in an application form.

- [Application form](#)

## 7. Labelling requirements

All packages must either:

- bear a label indicating “NOT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION” or,
- if they are dispatched in ready-to-sell packages the label must state “FOR FEEDING TO PETS/ REPTILES/ BIRDS OF PREY ONLY”

## 8. Veterinary checks

**Until the end of 2023, imports from the EU, and certain imports from Greenland, Faroe Islands and EFTA countries, do not need to enter Great Britain via a Border Control Points (BCP) and are not subject to veterinary checks at the border.**

**However BCP checks will be required on EU goods from the end of 2023.**

You can find additional information on imports from EFTA countries and Greenland in section 9.

- Consignments from trading partners (other than the EU, and some imports from Greenland, Faroe Islands and EFTA countries) may only be imported through an approved Border Control Post (BCP).
- The person responsible for the consignment must give notice of the proposed entry of the consignment at least one working day before arrival (with a derogation to 4 hours before arrival if there are logistical constraints).
- The notification shall be made to the inspection staff at the BCP using the Import of products, animals, food and feed system (IPAFFS). Further information regarding IPAFFS can be found on [GOV.UK](#).
- Any other electronic means agreed with the BCP to inform about the intended arrival of a consignment in advance are not to be considered as an official pre-notification.

Following satisfactory checks at the BCP (for which a charge is levied), consignments may then circulate freely within Great Britain. If the consignment does not meet the import requirements, the consignment may be rejected and either re-exported or destroyed.

- [Further guidance on veterinary checks on animal products](#)
- [Border Control Posts](#)

The [Trade in Animals and Related Products Regulations 2011 \(TARP 2011\)](#) (applicable in England) and EU Exit amendments to TARP 2011 can be found [here](#).

## 9. EFTA countries and Greenland

The UK government recognises that Norway, Switzerland and Liechtenstein implement EU veterinary legislation in relation to the movement of animals and animal products.

Therefore, animals and animal products from Norway, Switzerland and Liechtenstein must comply with the same requirements and controls applying to live animals and animal products from EU Member States. This also applies to Iceland for products of animal origin for human consumption, composite products and aquaculture.

Furthermore, in relation to imports from Faroe Islands this also applies to fishery products and aquaculture only. In relation to imports from Greenland this applies to fishery products and fish by-products only too.

## 10. Salmonella testing requirements

### a) In the case of Rodentia

All consignments must be subject to random testing (approximately 2% of consignments with consignment release) (with at least one consignment tested in the six month period following the issue of the authorisation) for Salmonella at the Border Control Post of introduction to the EU, in addition to any other tests the Official Veterinary Surgeon deems appropriate.

For each consignment to be sampled, 60 rodents should be collected from throughout the consignment (i.e. each sample to be taken from a different bag as far as practicable) and be submitted as 12 final samples for analysis (designed to detect a 5% within-batch prevalence).

If any samples are found to have a positive result the information will be passed to the relevant local authority who will act in accordance with the latest guidance from Public Health Agencies including PHE, PHS and PHW). Following a positive result the next 10 consignments will be tested for Salmonella and detained at the Border Control Post (BCP) until the test results are known in accordance with [Retained EU Implementing Regulation 2019/1715](#). The costs incurred to the BCP (above the standard charge) will need to be met

by the importer. Once 10 consecutive consignments have been tested without any testing positive for Salmonella, the sampling will revert back to random testing.

If any samples test positive for Salmonella, the whole consignment will be rejected, and either be re-dispatched or destroyed. All costs must be met by the importer.

### **b) In the case of Lagomorpha**

All consignments must be subject to random testing (approximately 2% of consignments with consignment release) for Salmonella at the Border Control Post of introduction under the sampling protocol as laid down in Retained EU Regulation 142/2011, in addition to any other tests the Official Veterinary Surgeon deems appropriate.

## **11. Movement from the BCP to premises of destination**

On arrival into Great Britain the by-products must be delivered to either:

- a technical plant dedicated to the use of such materials, and which has been approved in accordance with Article 24 of [Retained EU Regulation 1069/2009](#); or
- a pet food plant approved in accordance with Article 24 of Retained EU Regulation 1069/2009; or
- a holding or establishment keeping animals in accordance with the requirements referred to in Article 18 of Retained EU Regulation 1069/2009; or
- directly for retail sale where the animal by-products are dispatched in ready-to –sell packages bearing a label with a clear indication that the content is only destined for the feeding to pets/reptiles/birds of prey (see labelling requirement at Section 7. above) and deep frozen or dried.

## **12. Safeguard measures**

Emergency safeguard action can be taken at very short notice to prohibit or restrict the importation of certain products from certain countries following an outbreak of disease or a public health issue. Information on the latest updates concerning disease outbreaks which may affect imports into the UK can be found on our Topical Issues page on the website.

Further information on the International and UK monitoring of animal diseases may be found on the animal disease monitoring website.

Importers can get the latest news about exotic notifiable disease outbreaks from the APHA subscription service.

- [Topical issues](#)
- [Animal diseases: international and UK monitoring](#)
- [Exotic notifiable disease outbreak subscription service](#)

## 13. Legislation.gov.uk

Consolidated legal texts, which integrate the basic instruments of retained EU legislation with their amendments and corrections in a single, non-official document, are available. Each consolidated text contains a list of all legal documents taken into account for its construction.

You can search for consolidated texts by inputting the 'document number' and 'year' and then clicking the option 'All UK Legislation (including originating from the EU)' on [legislation.gov.uk](http://legislation.gov.uk).

Once you press 'search', you can find the relevant legislation listed with the full title of the legislation. Once you have selected the legislation, you may see the following message at the top of the page:

"Changes to legislation: There are outstanding changes not yet made to XXX. Those changes will be listed when you open the content using the Table of Contents below. Any changes that have already been made to the legislation appear in the content and are referenced with annotations."

Please note that the consolidated text may not contain the latest amendment to the legislation, as it takes several weeks for this to be updated. EU Exit amendments to legislation may take several months too. We advise to read the legislation alongside the EU Exit amendments made in the below UK laws:

- [The Import of, and Trade in, Animals and Animal Products \(Miscellaneous Amendments\) \(EU Exit\) Regulations 2020](#)
- [The Official Controls \(Animals, Feed and Food, Plant Health etc.\) \(Amendment\) \(EU Exit\) Regulations 2020](#)
- [The Official Controls \(Animals, Feed and Food, Plant Health etc.\) \(Amendment\) \(EU Exit\) \(No. 2\) Regulations 2020](#)
- [The Aquatic Animal Health and Alien Species in Aquaculture, Animals, and Marketing of Seed, Plant and Propagating Material \(Legislative Functions and Miscellaneous Provisions\) \(Amendment\) \(EU Exit\) Regulations 2020](#)
- [The Animals, Aquatic Animal Health, Invasive Alien Species, Plant Propagating Material and Seeds \(Amendment\) \(EU Exit\) Regulations 2020](#)
- [The Trade in Animals and Animal Products \(Legislative Functions\) and Veterinary Surgeons \(Amendment\) \(EU Exit\) Regulations 2019](#)

Texts provided in this section are intended for information only. Please note that these texts have no legal value. For legal purposes please refer to the texts published in [legislation.gov.uk](https://legislation.gov.uk).

Further information on changes in relation to EU legislation and UK law can be found on [legislation.gov.uk](https://legislation.gov.uk). Please continue to use legislation.gov.uk to find EU retained law applicable to Great Britain. Please avoid using the EU Commission website for information on imports into Great Britain.

## 14. Contact for further information

For further information regarding import requirements, contact the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) Imports team:

Centre for International Trade - Carlisle  
Eden Bridge House  
Lowther Street  
Carlisle  
CA3 8DX

Email: [Imports@apha.gov.uk](mailto:Imports@apha.gov.uk)

Telephone: 03000 200 301





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The Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) is an executive agency of the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs, and also works on behalf of the Scottish Government and Welsh Government.